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Alleged holding of stocks of foodgrains by certain public men of the Coimbatore district.

* 155 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that certain public men in Coimbatore district were instructing the ryots about September 1947 not to deliver their stocks of foodgrains to the Government but to hold them by so as to secure very high prices for their stock ;

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to give the names of the public men above referred to, and their occupations; and

(*c*) what action the Government took against the said public men?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) No action has been taken against them."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Do the Government realize that their refusal to give the names of the public men will create an impression that they are shielding those who disobey the law and are guilty of anti-social conduct? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir, for this reason that it is very difficult to get at the particular men and prosecute them. It was on some information received by the Government that a press communique was issued asking them to surrender paddy and not to be misguided. Therefore action on the basis of rumours against some people does not arise."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Are we to take it that the Government have not taken action against the public men who were guilty of such misconduct? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If there were specific charges, the Government would have taken action against them."

Provision of electricity from Mirzapuram.

* 156 *Q.*—SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was a memorandum, dated 2nd April 1947, or thereabout submitted to the Minister for Public Works in connection with the provision of and extension of electricity from Mirzapuram to Kotapalli, Katrenipad and Gopavaram villages and Mirzapuram to Kattarepalli, Billarapalli and Madicherla villages;

(*b*) if so, whether any steps have been taken in regard to the same, if not why not; and

(*c*) whether any report was called for from the departmental officer concerned and whether it will be laid on the table of the House?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (*a*) to (*c*) Attention is invited to the paper[a] placed on the table of the House."

Scales of pay of Inspector of Boilers.

* 157 *Q*.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have increased the scales of pay of the Inspector of Boilers from Rs. 250—600 to Rs. 280—700;

(*b*) whether the benefit of one increment given to the entrants has been given to existing men;

(*c*) whether there was any attempt by officers to go out on a higher salary and whether any one was not permitted due to dearth of hands; and

(*d*) whether there has been consistently scarcity of specialized hands in the department for the past three years?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. Minister for Public Works):—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) One officer applied for appointment in another province but the application was not forwarded on administrative grounds.

" (*d*) Some difficulty has been felt, but with the increase in the scale of pay of Inspectors it is hoped that suitable candidates will be forthcoming."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" Arising out of the answer to clause (*c*), may I know whether it is the policy of this Government not to forward applications for appointments elsewhere, even though the emoluments there are higher than what the applicants are getting here? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—" It depends upon the exigencies of service here."

Reservation of front seats in buses to the Police.

* 158 *Q*.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any complaint has been received that on 16th May 1947 at 8-30 p.m. the bus No. MDH 693 A.T. Madras running from Ennore to Madras had both the front seats reserved for the police;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that two gentlemen who boarded the front seat were objected to by the driver and conductor on the plea that they were reserved for the police;

(*c*) whether such a practice exists in bus services of reserving seats for police when traffic congestion is so great on the route; and

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a Printed as Appendix III on pages 40–41 infra.